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Christ Among the Cattle

By

Frederic Rowland Harbin

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Harvard College Library

FROM

The author, F. R. Mannin.

15 May, 1899.

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FROM

The author, F. R. Marvin

15 May, 1899

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Christ Among the Cattle

Christ Among the Cattle

A SERMON

PREACHED IN

The First Congregational Church

PORTLAND, OREGON

BY

FREDERIC ROWLAND MARVIN

I have read the excellent sermon by Frederic R. Marvin with hearty approval. The sooner we recognize the fact that the mercy of the All-Merciful extends to every creature endowed with life, the better will it be for us as men and Christians. I hope the sermon will have a wide circulation, and teach its readers that the dear Christ is "among the cattle," as well as among their owners.—John G. Whittier.

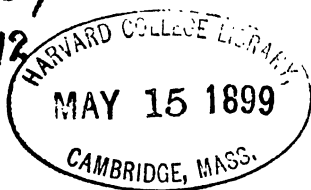
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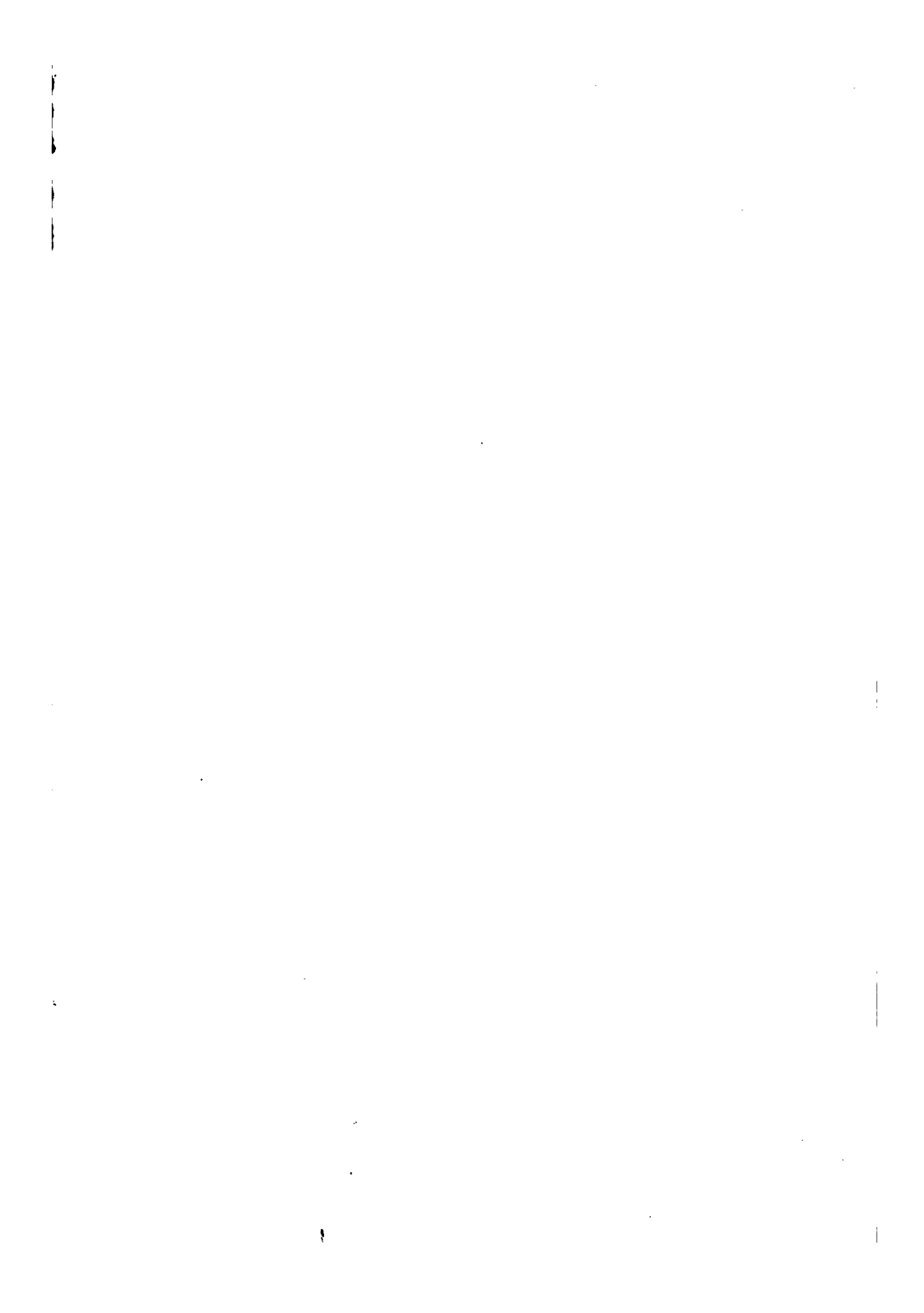


HE sendeth the springs into the valleys, which
run among the hills. They give drink to
every beast of the field ; the wild asses quench their
thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven
have their habitation, which sing among the
branches.—*Psalm CIV. 10-12.*

BEHOLD the fowls of the air ; for they sow
not, neither do they reap, nor gather into
barns ; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.—
Matthew VI. 26.

Among the noblest in the land,
Though he may count himself the least,
That man I honor and revere
Who without favor, without fear,
In the great city dares to stand
The friend of every friendless beast.

—*Long fellow.*



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IT is a significant fact that our Saviour was cradled in a manger, and that Mary, crowded out from the inn or caravansary, found shelter with the beasts of burden and cattle of the field, and brought forth the Prince of Peace in a common stable. It was literally true, as we sing at Christmas-time—

“Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.”

Nothing in our Saviour's life is without its lesson of divine wisdom, and we may study the circumstances of His birth, sure of finding at every point ample reward for our industry.

I call attention to “Christ among the Cat-

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tle." Why was our Saviour cradled in a manger? Why was He, whose advent had been the exalted theme of prophet and psalmist, denied the honor so readily accorded children of a royal line? Excellent reasons have been advanced, and yet one of great importance seems to have been overlooked. Was not our Saviour's advent associated with beasts of the stall to teach us lessons of respect for and kindness toward the animal world?

The dictates of the human heart and of religion are agreed that kindness to animals is a sacred duty, and that we ought

"Never to mix our pleasure or our pride
With sorrow of the meanest thing that feels."

We read in Scripture, "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." The angel of the Lord rebuked the cruel Balaam for smiting the ass three times. God spared Nineveh because there was "much cattle in the city." The law of Moses forbade muzzling the ox that treadeth out the corn. That law contained several special precepts enjoin-

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ing mercy to animals. We read: "If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in the way, in any tree, or on the ground, whether they be young ones, or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young, or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young; but thou shalt in anywise let the dam go." Again we read: "Thou shalt not plough with an ox and an ass together"—that is, thou shall adapt the work to the strength of the animal. Jacob was studiously careful for his flocks and herds, and treated them with something of the tenderness he bestowed upon his children. "If men should overdrive them one day, all the flocks will die, so I will lead on softly," said he to Esau, "according as the cattle that goeth before me be able to endure."

The Bible is a book of mercy for man and beast. Its sacred pages have ameliorated and still ameliorate the condition of both, and though we find bloody sacrifices enjoined, we discover no wanton cruelty and no disrespect for brute creatures. Turn to the Ten Commandments and read: "Remember the

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Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work. But the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant nor thy maid-servant, nor thy *cattle* that is with thee, nor the stranger within thy gates." You see the cattle are remembered and rest is provided for them in the same command that secures it to us. And as if to impress upon the human mind the sacredness of the duty we owe the animal world, the Holy Scriptures represent our Redeemer under the form of a lamb. "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not his mouth." "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." And He is also represented as a shepherd, illustrating in His own watchful care over His people the spirit He would have us manifest in dealing with the creatures dependent upon our will and pleasure. "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arms, and carry them in His

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bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." And the reign of peace on earth for which we are commanded to labor and pray is set forth under the figure of a wolf and a lamb dwelling together. It is, moreover, remarkable that the paragraph which opens with the promise, "For behold, I create new heavens, and a new earth," closes with the announcement that at such period, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord." The dove has been used from most ancient times as a sacred symbol. In Scripture it signifies the Holy Spirit, the meekness of Christ, and the desire of saints for the heavenly rest. "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! for then I would fly away, and be at rest:"

"So prayed the Psalmist to be free
From mortal bonds and earthly thrall;
And such, or soon or late, shall be
Full oft the heart-breathed prayer of all.

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“ And we, when life's last sands are run,
With faltering foot and aching breast,
Shall sigh for wings that waft the dove,
To flee away and be at rest.”

The life of an animal is sacred like our own, and may not be wantonly destroyed. Of course, there are circumstances that justify the sacrifice : thus we may take the life of a beast in self-defense, as when one slays a venomous reptile, a rabid dog, or a ferocious tiger. Life may be taken for the purpose of food, and, in fact for any decidedly useful end. Cowper epitomizes the matter thus :

“ The sum is this : If man's convenience, health,
Or safety interfere, his rights and claims
Are paramount, and must extinguish theirs ;
Else they are all, the meanest things that are,
As free to live, and to enjoy that life,
As God was free to form them at the first,
Who in His sovereign wisdom made them all.”

It is sinful to intentionally deprive an animal of life without suitable and sufficient reason. The beasts of the field, the birds of the air and fishes in the water, have the same right to life that we have. And I

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think it not absurd to assume that Divine Providence cradled the Christ in a manger, and surrounded him with dumb cattle, to teach us respect for the animal world. Certain it is that whenever the Christ is born again in the manger of the human heart, the fragrant flowers of mercy and kindness spring up on every side, and I would not give much for the religion of a man who has no sacred regard for brute life. It is to be feared that some of us show want of delicacy and bluntness of moral perception in dealing with the animal world. It was the fashion, not long ago, for ladies to wear birds' wings in their hats and dresses, and innocent song-birds in every land were slaughtered to gratify a savage and repulsive taste. An English paper described a marriage in which eleven bridesmaids wore dresses trimmed with feathers and down from swans and robins. What a slaughter of birds for one wedding! Those robes should have been smeared with blood; they stood for wanton and shameful cruelty. Innocent humming-birds, kingfishers, larks and nightingales

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snared and shot to decorate a woman's bonnet and adorn her dress! It is identically the same taste that leads an Indian to adorn his girdle with scalps and ornament his wigwam with skulls. One London dealer in birds received, when the fashion was at its height, a single consignment of 32,000 dead humming-birds, and another received at one time 30,000 aquatic birds, and 800,000 pairs of wings. At one auction in London there were sold 404,389 West Indian and Brazilian bird-skins, and 356,389 East Indian, together with thousands of pheasants and birds-of-Paradise.

“Think what a price to pay,
Faces so bright and gay,
Just for a hat!
Flowers unvisited, mornings unsung,
Sea-ranges bare of the wings that o’erswung—
Bared just for that!

“Think of the others, too,
Others and mothers, too,
Bright-Eyes in hat!
Hear you no mother-groan floating in air,
Hear you no little moan—birdling’s despair—
Somewhere, for that?

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“ Caught ’mid some mother-work,
Torn by a hunter Turk,
Just for your hat !
Plenty of mother-heart yet in the world ;
All the more wings to tear, carefully twirled —
Women want that !

“ Oh, but the shame of it,
Oh, but the blame of it.
Price of a hat !
Just for a jauntiness brightening the street !
This is your halo, O faces so sweet—
Death ; and for that ! ”

There is Scripture authority for saying that you will be called to account for your treatment of animals, and that God will hold you responsible for every act of cruelty. Said Jesus, when speaking of the birds, “ Not one of them is forgotten before God.” Let the London dealer in dead birds remember that. The same Heavenly Love that provides for your every want cares for them. “ Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns ; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.” “ Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of

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them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." There is a vast difference between destroying an animal for its warm and serviceable fur, and shooting a bird for its plumage ; and yet the story of the butchery of seals in Arctic waters is sad enough to make the stoutest heart faint, and is attended with so much wanton cruelty that even the seal-hunters themselves are often filled with dismay.

Another form of cruelty practiced for the sake of fashion is the manufacture of gloves, the skins for which come from France, Italy, Spain, Mexico and South America. In France the cruelty is revolting. Great care is taken in raising the kids, and they are sewed in covers to keep their skins in a condition of perfect softness. The kids grow, but the covers are not changed. Untold pain is inflicted on the little animals. They writhe in torture in their unyielding jackets. France alone makes more than 24,000,000 pairs of kid gloves every year.

That God intended many animals to be

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food for man there can be no reasonable doubt, but it is our duty to take life in such cases in as painless a way as the purpose to be served will permit. The art and science are not wasted that mitigate the distress of even the humblest of God's creatures: Before Mr. Bergh began his mission of mercy, and established in New York, his Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, our transportation companies gave no attention to the comfort of live stock. The cars were crowded and filthy, and neither food nor water were provided in suitable quantities, and at proper times. In the transit of cattle there has been of late considerable improvement, the trucks being larger and more convenient than formerly ; and on some railroads special provision is now made for the care of cattle in long journeys. Our butchers might learn a useful lesson from the skilful *matadar* who kills his bull by puncturing the spinal marrow in the neck. In a few English slaughter-houses and French *abattoirs* the custom has been adopted. Death by this method (it is called pithing) is comparatively

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painless. The production of "white veal" is an outrage. How any man can eat the unwholesome delicacy with knowledge of the agony it has cost is incomprehensible. To skin eels alive and to boil lobsters and crabs without first piercing them is extremely cruel.

The men and women who have defended animals have not been weak, sentimental and silly, as is sometimes averred; on the contrary, they have represented the most enlightened and thoughtful circles of society. Arthur Helps and Earl Stanhope have been outspoken friends of the brute creation; Cowper has described cruelty in lines of peculiar power and spirit; Dr. Chalmers made the subject a matter of pulpit discussion; Leigh Hunt, rebuking all pleasure had at the expense of others, declares that when we injure animals for sport we "injure also our own humanity;" Robert Southey though it not beneath him to write a letter to some young men who had maltreated a cat; and Stuart Mill, in the closing chapter of his "Political Economy," pronounces in favor

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of legal interference for the protection of animals.*

Little care is taken to teach children the principles of kindly humanity. Most parents seem to think it of little consequence whether their sons and daughters grow up with regard for the rights of animals, or without such regard, and I believe many a life of cruelty and brutality dates from early youth, and may be traced to its source in little acts of wanton and malicious ill-treatment of

*The honor is claimed for Jeremy Bentham of being the first in modern times to definitely and persistently demand for animals those common rights which are now fully accorded them by all good men. He wrote in his "Principles of Penal Law," chap. xvi: "The legislator ought to interdict everything which may serve to lead to cruelty: cock-fights, bull-baiting, hunting hares and foxes, fishing and other amusements of the same kind, necessarily suppose either the absence of reflection or a fund of inhumanity, since they produce the most acute sufferings to sensible beings, and the most painful and lingering death of which we can form any idea. Why should the law refuse its protection to any sensitive being? The time will come when humanity will extend its mantle over everything which breathes. We have begun by attending to the condition of slaves; we shall finish by softening that of all the animals which assist our labors or supply our wants."

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dependent animals. How differently was Theodore Parker educated! When Theodore was a little boy his father walked with him one spring morning in a distant part of the farm. They passed a pond where was blooming a rhodora, which so attracted the boy's attention as to draw him to the water's edge, and there he saw a large-spotted tortoise basking in the sunlight. Theodore had never killed any creature, but he had seen boys stone birds and squirrels and torment cats and dogs, and he at once seized a stick to follow their example and destroy the tortoise. But an unseen power restrained his arm and a voice within him said, "It is wrong." The child looked around and saw no one but his father. Fear seized upon him and he hastened to his mother in the utmost alarm and asked her what it was that told him it was wrong. The good woman, wiping the tears from her eyes, took the child in her arms and said: "Some men call it conscience, but I prefer to call it the voice of God in the soul of man. If you listen and obey it, then it will speak clearer and clearer, and

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always guide you right ; but if you turn a deaf ear or disobey, then it will leave you all in the dark and without a guide. Your life depends on your heeding that little voice." Theodore Parker lived to become a great scholar and distinguished preacher, but he never forgot that lesson, and always held conscience in supreme veneration. It is an important part of a good man's religion to be kind to the animal-world, and it is literally true that—

“ He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.
He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small,
For the dear God who loveth us
He made and loveth all.”

I know of a woman who will not allow her children to destroy a fly in sport, nor to pull the wings from a butterfly, nor to treat harshly a dumb beast. That woman is training her sons and daughters in the direction of a good and useful life. Nero, when a youth, took great pleasure in tormenting animals. He transfixed them with the spear,

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cut off their feet and then set them at liberty, clipped the wings of birds and dropped them from high towers, and smeared them with tar and ignited them. When Nero became a man and ruled over the great Roman empire, what was his character? It was just what might have been prophesied from his boyhood. He no longer contented himself with cruelty to animals, but became the scourge of his fellow men. He seized the early Christians, not because he hated them, but because they were unpopular and unprotected, and when he had enclosed them in sacks of tar and combustibles, had them suspended from trees in his garden. Then he gave a great banquet, and at an appointed signal lighted the sacks. When the air was filled with shrieks of agony, and mothers were burning with their little children, and strong men and delicate maidens were wreathed in flame, that monster—let us not call him a man—clapped his hands with delight and laughed in boisterous glee. A childhood of cruel sports prepared Nero for a career of inexpressible infamy.

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Do you think the amusements of that little Roman boy are without parallel in the sports of children to-day? Could the horses, cattle, dogs, creatures of the barn-yard and frogs and insects find a voice, I fear we should discover incipient Neros not far from home. I read not long ago, in a daily paper, of a youth who dipped a cat in kerosene and then set the creature on fire. There you have a young Nero training himself for a life of crime and cruelty. Hogarth, who was a shrewd observer of human nature, in his "Four Stages of Cruelty," makes a boy begin his criminal career by tormenting animals. The youth advances from stage to stage until at length he commits murder, and ends life upon the gallows. It has been truly said: "The effect of the barbarous treatment of inferior creatures on the minds of those who practice it is more deplorable than its effects upon the animals themselves. The man who kicks dumb brutes kicks brutality into his own heart. He who can see the wistful, imploring eyes of half-starved creatures without making earnest effort to relieve them, and feel no twinge

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of conscience, is on the road to lose his manhood, if he has not already lost it." Why is it that when there is a public execution thousands of people go miles and miles to witness it, and sometimes pay large prices for seats near the gallows? It is a cruel spirit that takes men to such places. It is the same spirit that led a Roman populace to delight in gladiatorial exhibitions, and in the destruction of Christians in the amphitheatre. What is the bull-fight doing for Spain? Brutalizing it. The English chase is another inhuman sport, and should be ranked with bull-fighting, bear-baiting and the cock-pit. Surround the stag-hunt and fox-hunt with whatever romance you please, and still they remain low, demoralizing and cruel amusements.

Vivisection is another unnecessary cruelty,*

* Vivisection is an ancient usage, having been practised for 2,000 years or more, in Egypt, Italy and elsewhere. Human vivisection is mentioned by Galen as having been fashionable for centuries before his day, and Celsus informs us that "they procured criminals out of prison, and, dissecting them alive, contemplated, while they were yet breathing, what nature had before concealed." The sorcerers, too, of

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writes Dr. Elliotson: "Dr. Magendie—in one of his barbarous experiments, which I am ashamed to say I witnessed—began by coolly cutting out a large piece from the back of a beautiful little puppy, as he would from an apple dumpling! It is not to be doubted that inhumanity may be found in persons of very high standing as physiologists. We have seen that it is so in Magendie's case." If Dr. Elliotson's statement is worthy of credit, and we have every reason to believe it is, Professor Huxley's name being attached to the report as one of many endorsers, the science of physiology has good cause for shame, and deserves the opposition it has of late encountered. All medical students in America know that similar outrages are perpetrated in our medi-

the Middle Ages, tortured both human beings and animals, with a view to the discovery of their medicinal elixirs. The recognition of the rights of men has now made human vivisection criminal, and the scientific inquisition of the present time counts animals alone as its victims. And here the Act of 1876 has fortunately, though not sufficiently, restricted the powers of the vivisector in Great Britain.—*Animals' Rights* by H. S. Salt, p. 75.

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cal colleges every winter. I have witnessed vivisections so cruel and unnecessary that I am ashamed to remember that they were under the patronage of my Alma Mater. Were the experiments of value to the world—were they calculated to further the interests of the healing art, or to mitigate human misery and lengthen the life of man—I would approve and encourage them, but they are practically worthless, as many eminent physicians have confessed. Sir William Ferguson, a celebrated surgeon, expressed himself thus: "In surgery I am not aware of any of these experiments on the lower animals having led to the mitigation of pain or to improvement as regards surgical details." The ordinary vivisection is not only an inexcusable cruelty to the animal, but an incalculable injury to the young men who see it. It teaches them to behold without compassion the most aggravated misery and acute anguish. It hardens the heart and blunts the sensibilities. Dr. Bigelow, late Professor of Surgery at Harvard University, wrote: "Watch the students at a vivisec-

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tion. It is the blood and suffering, not the science, that rivets their breathless attention. If hospital service makes young students less tender of suffering, vivisection deadens their humanity, and begets indifference to it." In the "Hand-book of the Physiological Laboratory," compiled for the use of students at University College, we find directions for performing an operation to illustrate "Recurrent Sensibility." It is recommended that the operation be performed upon a cat or dog. The method is this: "The arches of one or two vertebræ are carefully sawn through, or cut through with the bone forceps, and the exposed roots very carefully freed from the connecting tissue surrounding them. If the animals be strong, and have thoroughly recovered from the chloroform and from the operation, irritation of the peripheral stump of the anterior root causes not only contraction in the muscles, but also movements in other parts of the body, indicative of pain. On dividing the mixed trunk the contractions cease, but the general signs of pain or sensation remain." In many

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rage." The distinguished scientist, Von Lesser, "plunged a dog for thirty seconds into boiling water." Chauveau subjected eighty horses and mules to extreme torture simply to discover what degree of anguish it was possible to produce through irritation of the spinal cord. Montegazza's infernal "experiments" performed upon pregnant and nursing animals with the machine of his own contriving, and which he called his "tormentar" are of such a nature that we must leave them undescribed. Of these he says, "I conducted them with much delight and extreme patience for the space of a year." The celebrated Professor Schiff, of Florence, has destroyed by vivisection more than 15,000 dogs. For a number of years all the dogs not claimed at the Home for Lost Dogs were handed over to Professor Schiff, who disposed of about twenty-five every month. In April, 1875, the following announcement was posted in the most conspicuous places of Florence: "Dogs are purchased at No. 8, Via S. Sabastiano, at the rate of one franc each. For every ten dogs

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a sum to be agreed on between buyer and seller will be paid." The horrible experiments of Horsley and Schiff upon monkeys furnish another illustration of the hardening influence of vivisection. Mr. Charles Wood, an English bird and animal fancier, who was brought before a magistrate on the charge of cruelty to tame rats, presented in his defense the following plea, as reported in the Manchester *Examiner* of April 3, 1884: "He supplied rats, birds, rabbits, dogs and all kinds of animals to be tortured and cut up alive at Owen's College, and why was he charged with cruelty to animals? If it was right for the professors and students at the college, why was it wrong for him?" Sir Thomas Dyer said before the English "Society for the Total Abolition and Utter Suppression of Vivisection:" "A case of vivisection occurs to me which I feel impelled to relate, as showing that vivisection is sometimes practised for no other motive than that of cruelty. A vivisector known to me, crucified a dog and kept it without food or water till, at the end of eleven days, death put an

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end to its sufferings. For what purpose was this done? The operator himself said he had no purpose in view but to see how long a dog could support life under such torture. What possible knowledge of real value could all that suffering lead to? I stigmatize the act as simply infernal." Are our medical colleges to be turned into torture chambers, and are our young men to be systematically educated to cruelty in the learned sciences? Alas for Science, if instead of ameliorating the condition of man and beast, it is to be her mission to brutalize the former and bring untold agony to the latter.

The man who will intentionally maltreat a horse is deserving of severe punishment. I knew of a wretch who, because his horse balked, deliberately cut out its tongue and cast it on the roadside. Twenty years in state-prison should have been the consequence of that brutal act of wanton cruelty. I wish we could share the Arab's attachment to his horse. A commentator on the Koran declares, with the exaggeration common to Eastern writers, that an Arab is under the

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same obligation to love and provide for his horse that he is to care for his children. Another author assures us that whoever cherishes a horse for God's sake will be counted among "the charitable whose sins will be forgiven." The Arab lives in the saddle, and his safety in flight as well as success in battle depends on the speed and courage of his charger. He loves his horse with an ardor that appears absurd to western men, who seldom put the animal to such romantic use, and whose safety and happiness are not so dependent on the creature's speed and mettle. Bayard Taylor, in felicitous lines, sets forth in truly Oriental fashion the Arab's love for his horse:

"Come, my beauty ! come, my desert darling !
On my shoulder lay thy glossy head !
Fear not, though the barley-sack be empty,
Here's the half of Hassan's scanty bread.

"Bend thy forehead now, to take my kisses !
Lift in love thy dark and splendid eye :
Thou art glad when Hassan mounts the saddle—
Thou art proud he owns thee : so am I.

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“ We have seen Damascus, O my beauty !
And the splendor of the pachas there ;
What’s their pomp and riches ? Why, I would not
Take them for a handful of thy hair ! ”

Some of the most soul-stirring of Eastern poems are descriptive of the horse and his achievements. What can be grander than this from Job :

Hast thou given the horse strength ? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder ?

Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper ? the glory of his nostrils is terrible.

He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength : he goeth on to meet the armed men.

He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted ; neither turneth he back from the sword.

The quiver rattleth against him ; the glittering spear and the shield.

He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage : neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet.

He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha ! and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.—xxxix: 19-25.

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No doubt there is something romantic and extravagant in the Arab's love for his horse, and yet I think we could share the sentiment without harm. Certain it is that whatever teaches us to be kind and considerate in our treatment of animals makes us better men and women. The horse is a brave, sensitive and intelligent creature, and it is not at all wonderful that men have loved him from the time of Melizysus to the present, but it is astonishing that any one could ever be guilty of the cruelty and brutality some have shown to innocent and defenceless animals. Many horses are rendered permanently vicious and unnaturally timid by the cruelty which too often attends the process of "breaking." Treat a horse kindly and it will be gentle and obedient unless badly frightened. There is no reason why as warm a friendship should not exist between horse and owner as between dog and master. There is much in the study of the animal world to revive romance, kindle enthusiasm and cultivate the noble virtues of kindness and humanity. The considerate and respectful way in which the Bible, and

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the sacred scriptures of all great religions, speak of the lower orders of creation, ought to inspire us with like spirit. Truly and beautifully Ruskin describes the attitude a good and noble man assumes toward the animals: "The gentleness of chivalry, properly so-called, depends on the recognition of the order and awe of lower and loftier animal life. * * * * There is perhaps, in all the 'Iliad,' nothing more deep in significance—there is nothing in literature more perfect in human tenderness and honor for the mystery of inferior life—than the verses that describe the sorrow of the divine horses at the death of Patroclus, and the comfort given them by the greatest of gods."

Thus Plutarch reminds us of our duty to the animal world: "The obligations of law and equity reach only to mankind, but kindness and beneficence should be extended to animals of every species; and these still flow from the breast of a well-natured man, as streams that issue from the living fountain. A good man will take care of his horses and dogs, not only while they are young, but

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when old and past service. Thus the people of Athens, when they had finished the temple called Hecatompodon set at liberty the beasts of burden that had been chiefly employed in the work, suffering them to pasture at large, free from any other service. It is said that one of these afterwards came of its own accord to work, and putting itself at the head of the neighboring cattle, marched before them to the citadel. This pleased the people, and they made a decree that it should be kept at the public charge so long as it lived. The graves of Cimon's mares, with which we thrice conquered at the Olympic games, are still to be seen near his own tomb. Many have shown particular marks of regard, in burying the dogs which they had cherished and been fond of; and amongst the rest Xantippus of old, whose dog swam by the side of his galley to Salamis, when the Athenians were forced to abandon their city, and was afterward buried by him upon a promontory, which to this day is called the Dog's Grave. We certainly ought not to treat living creatures like shoes or household

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goods, which, when worn out with use, we throw away ; and were it only to learn benevolence to human kind we should be merciful to other creatures."

It is a great mystery, this animal world by which we are surrounded and of which we are a part. We share a common nature with the creatures beneath us, and it may be they have part in our immortality. For anything we know to the contrary the beasts of the field, the birds in the air and the fishes in the sea have within them a deathless principal answering to the soul in man. So the Ettrick Shepherd thought when he wrote : " I canna but believe that dawgs hae sowls." Lamar-tine reverently epitomizes the great mystery in two lines of his "Episodes of Insect Life :"

"My dog ! the difference between thee and me
Knows only our Creator."

There is nothing in the Bible, when rightly understood, to discountenance the belief cherished by our own Agassiz, and taught by Leibnitz and the poet Coleridge—the belief

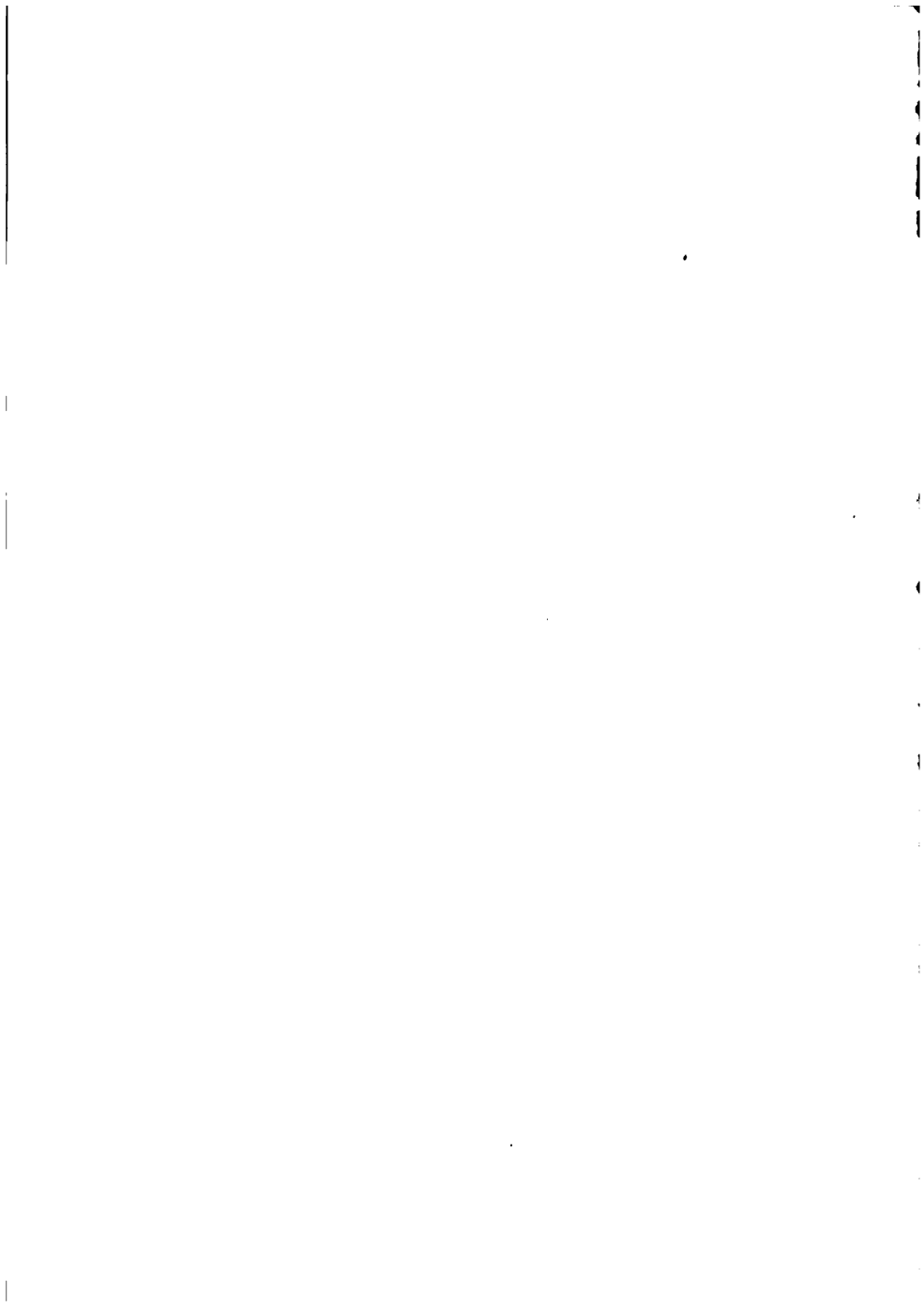
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that both man and beast enter upon a future life when the joys and sorrows of this are ended. And there is much in the unequal allotments of the life that now is, to render the immortality of the animal world highly probable. Here are two horses equally deserving of kind treatment, but one falls into the possession of a cruel man who is a stranger to mercy, and the other is owned by a man who illustrates the soul of Christian gentleness in the just and humane treatment of creatures dependent upon his will and pleasure. How shall God vindicate His justice and establish the equity of His unequal providence if there be no life for beasts of burden when the toils and hardships of this weary world are forever ended? "I will honestly confess," wrote Toplady, author of the beautiful hymn Rock of Ages, "that I never yet heard one single argument urged against the immortality of brutes which, if admitted, would not, *mutatis mutandis*, be equally conclusive against the immortality of man." Mrs. Somerville, at the age of eighty-nine, wrote in her "Memoirs," as follows: "I

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cannot believe that any creature was created for uncompensated misery ; it would be contrary to the attribute of God's mercy and justice. I am sincerely happy to find that I am not the only believer in the immortality of the lower animals." The longer I live the more convinced I am that we all—men, beasts, birds, fishes and insects—are the creatures of a loving God, who will not allow a sparrow to fall to the earth without his notice, and I am willing to believe with the poor Indian who

“ Thinks, admitted to that equal sky,
His faithful dog shall bear him company.”

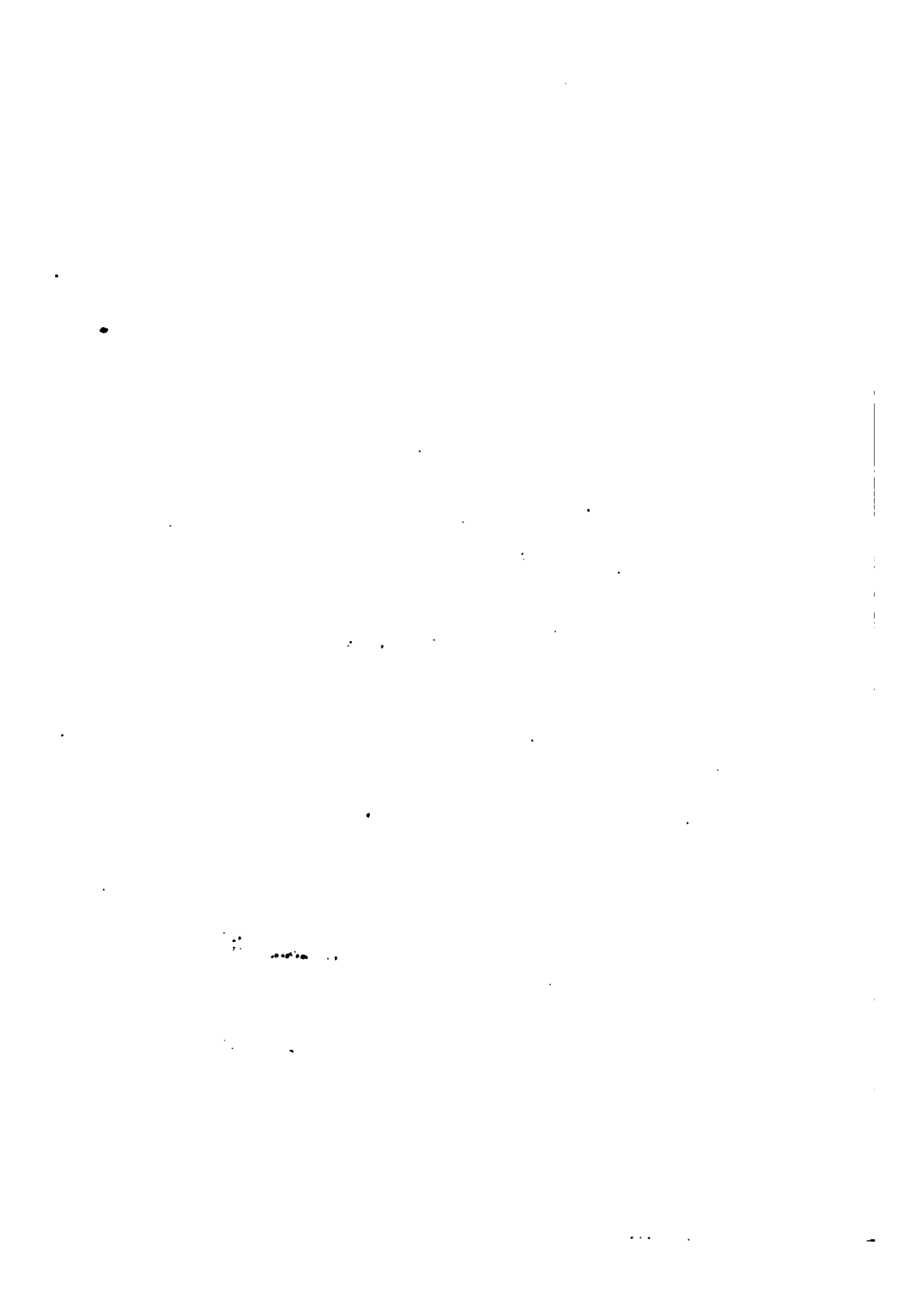


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